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Export Certification
Manual

Methods And Procedures

Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport, PPQ Form 579

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Introduction

Phytosanitary Certificates for Reexport (FPC-R) are issued for foreign plant and unprocessed or unmanufactured plant products that have been imported into the United States. **If U.S. and foreign commodities are blended to the extent that their identity has been lost, an FPC-R must be used. Do not issue a PPQ Form 579 (FPC-R) for foreign processed products.** We are certifying that the plants or plant products have been safeguarded against the risk of infestation or infection while in the United States. If safeguarding cannot be verified, the certifying official must perform a phytosanitary inspection.

The export summary of the foreign country is checked for any import requirements. Keep in mind that specific requirements for the listed plants and plant products from countries of origin other than the United States may not be contained in the summaries under Product Requirements.

Look in EXCERPT under General Information for those plants or plant products that are prohibited from all countries and for the import requirements that have to be met by all imported plants or plant products. In some cases an import permit may be available to specify the import requirements for a shipment.

The FPC-R is **not** issued for plants or plant products listed as prohibited entry by the foreign country unless a valid import permit is presented and all requirements can be met. Do not, however, refuse to issue the certificate if the foreign country requires the plants or plant products to meet conditions such as active growth field inspection,

area of production free from specified pests, or virus indexing in the originating country. If the proper declarations are not on a PC from the country of origin, an AD may be placed on the reexport certificate to indicate the shipment met the entry requirements of the United States, **OR** that the United States does not require phytosanitary certification for the entry of the plants or plant products, if such be the case. It is permissible to document the results of supplemental phytosanitary inspection, testing, and treatment on the FPC-R.

Such supplemental inspection/testing and treatment carried out for the purpose of providing phytosanitary certification for a foreign origin product must be tailored to the known import requirements of the intended receiving country. The import requirements must be available to PPQ either through published plant health legislation and/or by import permits issued by the country's official plant protection organization. Existing policy that disallows PPQ certification relative to pest conditions, field inspection, laboratory testing, etc., in the originating country is not changed; the phytosanitary certification issued by the plant protection service of the originating country must address these types of issues.

Supplemental phytosanitary inspection of foreign origin products must be officially conducted by PPQ or designated cooperating State plant regulatory personnel. Laboratory testing/indexing, etc., must be accomplished by Federal, State, or university laboratories approved by PPQ. Treatments must be officially supervised. An exception to this rule is that seed treatments specified on official seed tags/labels may be used as the basis for treatment certification on phytosanitary certificates.

Guidelines for determining regulatory action when phytosanitary certificates (PC's) have been altered in violation of 7CFR 353 are included in Appendix 14 (Certification Violations).

Determine Entry Status

Step 1—(Reexport) Determine the Appropriate Action for Shipments that Have Officially Entered U.S. Commerce:

Use **Table 2-6-1** to take the appropriate action.

TABLE 2-6-1: Regulating Reexport Shipments Based on Entry Status

If the shipment being reexported:	Then:
Is transiting the United States under Custom's bond or is entering a free trade zone	REFUSE to issue a reexport certificate
Has officially entered U.S. commerce	1. ASK the exporter for supporting documents, i.e., Custom's entry papers or an invoice bearing a PPQ "released" stamp, or a foreign PC 2. GO to Step 2 (Reexport)

Review Export Summaries

Step 2—(Reexport) Determine Import Requirements of Reexport Shipments:

Look in the export summary of the foreign country to see if there are import requirements listed for the plants or plant products offered for reexport. Refer to Import Requirements under Methods and Procedures beginning on page 2.3.1 as a guide to processing reexport shipments used as import requirements. Go to **Table 2-6-2** to take the appropriate action.

TABLE 2-6-2: Regulating Reexport Shipments Based on Import Requirements

If the plants or plant products:	Then:
Are prohibited entry into the foreign country	REFUSE to issue an FPC-R, unless a valid IP is presented
Require special handling such as growing season inspection, virus indexing, freedom from specified pests in the production area ¹	GO to Step 3 (Reexport), Verify Segregation and Safeguarding of Reexport Shipments
Require an entry condition that can be met by visual inspection or are declared on the foreign PC	
Are not listed in the export summary	

¹ These types of requirements cannot be met within an intermediate country, but this does **not** justify refusing certification.

Verify Segregation and Safeguarding

Step 3—(Reexport) Verify Segregation and Safeguarding of Reexport Shipments:

Determine if the plants or plant products were both:

- ◆ Segregated and their identity maintained, and

- ◆ Kept under suitable safeguards to prevent the risk of infestation or infection while in the United States

Make the determination by using your knowledge of and your experience with the exporting company, the supporting documents, and the plants or plant products being reexported.

TABLE 2-6-3: Regulating Reexport Shipments Based on Segregation and Safeguarding

If the plants or plant products have:	Then:
Been segregated and safeguarded	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COMPLETE a reexport certificate. The plants or plant products may be certified with only a verification inspection 2. ATTACH the original or certified copy of the foreign PC 3. GO to page 2.6.5 to prepare a Reexport Certificate, PPQ Form 579
Not been segregated and safeguarded, OR Been stored, repacked, or split while in the United States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VISUALLY examine the plants or plant products 2. GO to Step 4 (Reexport)

Visually Examine Plants or Plant Products

Step 4—(Reexport) Visually Examine Reexport Shipments:

Visually examine the plants or plant products being offered for reexport. Refer to Inspectional Guidelines under Methods and Procedures beginning on page 2.4.3. Make sure the plants or plant products are the following:

- ◆ What have been offered for reexport
- ◆ Not subject to infection or infestation

TABLE 2-6-4: Regulating Reexport Shipments Based on Visual Inspection

If the plants or plant products:	Then:
Have no pests present	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COMPLETE a reexport certificate 2. GO to page 2.6.5 to prepare a reexport certificate, PPQ Form 579
Have pests present	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DO NOT CERTIFY the plants or plant products unless treated or reconditioned 2. GO to Step 7 on page-2-4-12

Preparing a Reexport Certificate

The Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport (PC for reexport), PPQ Form 579, is used to certify foreign plants and plant products for reexport (see [Figure 2-6-1](#) for a sample of a reexport certificate).

The intended purpose of the reexport certificate is to expedite the entry of plants or plant products into a foreign country. This form may also be used to expedite entry into the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands (islands affiliated with the United States), American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John). This use is authorized because States do not have Reexport Certificates.

Authorized Certification Officials (ACO's) are responsible for holding in strict confidence the information in these documents and maintaining an accountability system for them. Details about confidentiality, accountability, and the purpose of the reexport certificate can be found under the definition of the PC for reexport in the Glossary of this manual.

To clarify the preparation of the PC for reexport, the form is divided into six parts:

- ◆ Heading
- ◆ Certification
- ◆ Disinfestation and/or Disinfection treatment
- ◆ Description of the Consignment
- ◆ Additional Declaration
- ◆ Authorization (signature)

To complete the FPC-R, follow the directions for preparing an FPC, PPQ Form 577, except for:

- ◆ Certification
- ◆ Additional Declaration
- ◆ Attachments

These sections on the reexport certificate are to be prepared differently from the FPC, PPQ Form 577.

If the commodity received a quarantine treatment as a condition of entry into the United States, then enter the full treatment schedule in the appropriate section of the reexport certificate. Never abbreviate with entries such as "Fumigated" or "T101."

In addition, when issuing a PC for reexport, you are required to attach the original foreign PC or certified true copy, if available, to the PPQ Form 579.

The following give specific instructions, techniques, and examples of how to complete a Certificate for Reexport.

Block Titled "CERTIFICATION":

1. Enter the foreign country where the plants or plant products came from (country of origin). More than one country can be entered, and for more than one commodity, but be sure to distinguish which commodity is from which country in Block 13, "Place of origin."

Methods And Procedures: Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport, PPQ Form 579
Preparing a Reexport Certificate

Heading

Certification

Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment

Description of the Consignment

Additional Declaration

Authorization

PHYTO SANITARY CERTIFICATE FOR REEXPORT

TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF

PLACE OF ISSUE

NO. FPC 522474 -R

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the plants or plant products described below were imported into the United States from (Country of origin) covered by Phytosanitary Certificate ☐ original ☐ certified true copy of which is attached to this certificate. That they are ☐ packed ☐ repacked ☐ in original ☐ in new containers, that based on the ☐ original Phytosanitary Certificate ☐ and additional inspection, they are considered to conform with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country, and that during storage in the United States, the consignment has not been subjected to the risk of infestation or infection.

DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT

1. DATE

2. TREATMENT

3. CHEMICAL (active ingredient)

4. DURATION AND TEMPERATURE

5. CONCENTRATION

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE EXPORTER

8. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE

9. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED

10. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS

11. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES

12. DESTROYING HANDLING

13. PLACE OF ORIGIN

14. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE

15. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY

WARNING: Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this phytosanitary certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to \$200,000 (U.S.C. Section 733(d)) or punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000, imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (16 U.S.C. Section 1001).

ADDITIONAL DECLARATION

16. DATE ISSUED

17. NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER (Type of Firm)

18. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER

No liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department who respect to this certificate.

PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS

PART 1. SHIPPER'S ORIGINAL

FIGURE 2-6-1: Sample of Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport, PPQ Form 579

2. Enter the Phytosanitary Certificate number if available. Use **Table 2-6-5** to determine your entry.

TABLE 2-6-5: Determining the Entry for the Phytosanitary Certificate

If:	Then:
The original or a copy of the foreign certificate addressed to the United States and endorsed as a true copy is available	1. ENTER the number of the certificate from the original foreign country 2. INDICATE whether the certificate is the original or a certified true copy
No foreign certificate is available	ENTER "none" in the space to the right of the words "Phytosanitary Certificate No."

3. Indicate whether the plants or plant products are packed in the original containers or repacked in new containers.

Additional Declaration Section

Block Titled "ADDITIONAL DECLARATION"¹:

In the Additional Declaration section, indicate that the plants or plant products conform with the entry requirements of the importing country based on the original PC, import permit (IP), or based on a supplemental phytosanitary inspection, testing, or treatment. (An IP number may be included in this section.)

Determine the entry for the Additional Declaration using [Table 2-6-6](#).

TABLE 2-6-6: Determining the Entry for the Additional Declaration

If:	And the required certification is:	Then:
The original or a copy of the PC from the country of origin is present	On that certificate	No AD is required
	Not on that certificate	You may ENTER an AD that states, "The commodity met the entry requirements of the United States," and document the results of a supplemental phytosanitary inspection, testing, or treatment.
There is no PC from the country of origin	→	<p>The only acceptable AD's are as follows:</p> <p>"The commodity met the entry requirements of the United States."</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>"The United States does not require phytosanitary certification as a condition of entry for this commodity" (if that be the case).</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>"Import permit (IP) presented" (if permit is specifically written for the products being shipped from the U.S.A.), and document the results of a supplemental phytosanitary inspection, testing, or treatment.</p>

¹ This is a critical area. Never make corrections in this critical block unless directed otherwise in the export summary.

Attachments

When the original or a copy of the foreign PC endorsed as a true copy is available, attach it to the original copy of PPQ Form 579.

Distribution

Distribute copies of PPQ Form 579 using [Table 2-6-7](#).

TABLE 2-6-7: Distributing the Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport, PPQ Form 579

If the reexport PC copy is:	Then:
Part 1—Shipper's Original (white w/ blue microprint background) Part 2—Shippers' Copy (white)	GIVE the copies to the exporter, shipper, or broker NOTE: Any special instructions for distributing the original and the exporter's copies will be in the export summary of the foreign country.
Part 3—Record Copy (white)	SEND the copy each week to your contact point officer (CPO) for review.
Part 4—Issuing Office (white)	FILE the copy at the issuing office and attach any pertinent information for that specific shipment, i.e., copy of the Import Permit; the application with recorded inspection results; inspection certificates issued by AMS, FGIS, or State; treatment data

Maintenance

The CPO's office retains the Record Copy of PPQ Form 579 for 90 days. (Generally, copies of this form should not be forwarded to Headquarters; however, they may be retained as training material.) Also, the CPO's office reviews the forms to detect errors by a sampling rate determined by the CPO. When errors are detected, the CPO should do the following:

- ◆ Immediately notify ES when the potential result of the error may 1) cause embarrassment or financial liability to USDA or its employees, 2) cause financial loss to the shipper or industry, or 3) damage the credibility of the phytosanitary certification program
- ◆ Give feedback to the issuing office and certifying officer
- ◆ Develop and present refresher training using the types of errors detected

The issuing office will retain the Issuing Office Copy on file for 3 years, then destroy it by incineration or shredding.



Plant Inspection Stations and ports designated for export of protected plant material:

Consistent with existing requirements to retain CITES/ESA documents and associated paperwork for five years, it is recommended that copies of **FPC-R's issued for protected plant material be kept for 5 years.**

The certificates are pre numbered making it possible to maintain records in an exact numerical sequence. Along with the copies of the reexport FPC's the files should include:

- ◆ The application for inspection (PPQ Form 572) when it is used
- ◆ Results of the inspection by the certifying official
- ◆ Inspection results of certificates of inspection from other State or Federal agencies
- ◆ Attachments to the certificate
- ◆ Related correspondence or cross-references